
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**February 24, 2009
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Alameida, Stacy	MTA
Gainor, Mike	MTA
Litschi, Michael	OCTA
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Williams, Leann	Caltrans, District 7

SCAG Staff

Asuncion, John
Ayala, Rosemary
Kuo, Ryan
Luo, Rongsheng
Mann, Betty
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Behtash, Armand	Caltrans, District 12
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Chavez, Raul	SC Engineering
Estrada, Romeo	Caltrans, District 12
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Herrera, Clint	City of Corona
Jeffrey, Edison	Caltrans, District 8
Kratovil, Aimee	FHWA
Louka, Tony	Caltrans, District 8
Marquez, Jose	Caltrans, District 11
Noch, Michelle	FHWA
O'Conner, Karina	EPA, Region 9
Sells, Eyvonne	AQMD

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Simms, Jimmy
Yoon, Andrew

Mark Thomas & Company
Caltrans, District 7

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Michael Litschi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1.1 TCWG January 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes
The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- SCAG is still waiting for and anticipating federal approval of the Economic Stimulus Revenue Amendment.
- Once the revenue amendment has been approved, Caltrans can approve the economic stimulus administrative amendment that SCAG submitted last week. The Economic Stimulus Amendment has been posted on SCAG's website for public review. Once the public review period is over, the amendment will be sent to the funding agencies for their approval.
- A non-economic stimulus amendment is also waiting for state and federal approval.
- Staff is working on setting up a schedule for future economic stimulus amendments.
- Staff has had weekly discussions with the CTCs and IVAG regarding the economic stimulus amendments.

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Minutes**

Michelle Noch, FHWA, informed the TCWG that the approval letter for Amendment #5 is in Sacramento awaiting signature.

4.2 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The draft 2012 RTP Development Schedule will be presented to the P&P TAC for review later today.
- SCAG is addressing the RTP amendment requests from OCTA and IVAG. It seems that the OCTA's request will only need a quick administrative modification with notification to TC, not a formal amendment, and that the IVAG's request may not even need an amendment.

4.3 SB 375 Update

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, provided an overview of SB375 including background, requirements, roles and responsibilities of various agencies, major milestones, and next steps.

4.4 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) [RIV050535](http://www.scag.ca.gov/tcwg/pdfs/projectlist/feb09/RIV050535.pdf)

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It was determined that the PM Hot Spot form be revised with additional information for the project prior to a determination. The item will be brought back at the next meeting of the TCWG.

2) [SCAG 015](http://www.scag.ca.gov/tcwg/pdfs/projectlist/feb09/SCAG015.pdf) (<http://www.scag.ca.gov/tcwg/pdfs/projectlist/feb09/SCAG015.pdf>)

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, stated that the Schuyler Heim Bridge Replacement and SR-47 Expressway Project discussed at last month's TCWG meeting had been corrected to reflect that it is not a TCM. The project had originally been mislabeled as a TCM (it is mixed flow) but has been corrected in the 2008 RTIP Timely Implementation Report..

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**February 24, 2009
Minutes**

4.5 EPA Update

Karina O’Conner, EPA, briefed the Committee on the following recently released guidance documents:

- ***Conformity SIP Guidance*** – This Guidance supersedes the EPA’s November 2004 Guidance. The guidance incorporates part of the interim SAFETELU Guidance related to conformity SIPs and the EPA’s previous check list for reviewing conformity SIPs.
- ***TCM Substitution Guidance*** – Section 2.9 of the Guidance clarifies that a TCM substitution not only needs to demonstrate equivalent or greater emissions reductions for the same pollutants and precursors that original TCM provided in the applicable SIP, but also needs to document that the substitution will not result in increased emissions of the other pollutants and precursors for which the area is designated nonattainment or maintenance, which is a new requirement for future TCM substitutions. The new requirement will be more a qualitative analysis and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- ***Update to Latest Planning Assumptions*** - This Guidance supersedes the EPA’s 2001 Guidance. The only change is based on changes in the 2004 Conformity Rule which changed the point when the determination of what the latest Planning Assumption is to be at the beginning of an analysis instead of at the end of the analysis.

4.6 ARB Update

Dennis Wade, ARB, updated the Committee on the following two items:

- ***8-Hour Ozone Designations*** - At the ARB meeting in Sacramento on February 26th, the ARB Board will be considering Staff’s recommendations for the new federal 2008 Ozone standard. The Staff Report is posted on the ARB’s website. ARB staff is taking its proposed designations to the Board this Thursday and intends to submit the proposal to U.S. EPA by March. It is anticipated that the EPA will make final designation by March 2010.

All current non-attainment areas for Ozone will remain non-attainment based on 2008 design values. Staff proposes seven new or expanded non-

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attainment areas based of preliminary 2008 design values. In the SCAG Region, the only change is to include the whole San Bernardino County portion of the Western Mojave Desert Air Basin. All remaining areas in the SCAG Region will continue to remain non-attainment for the Ozone Standard.

- *EMFAC 2010* – The development of this model has begun. The new model will include the latest DMV and fleet data to satisfy the latest planning assumption issues that may arise at the end of 2010. The model will also include the latest MPO travel activity data. It will also include any new regulations that have been adopted since EMFAC 2007 was released in November of 2006. A draft of the model is expected to be released late 2009 or early 2010. It is anticipated that the model will be submitted to the USEPA for approval prior to the end of 2010.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, announced that this would be Michael Litschi's last meeting as Chair of the TCWG and thanked him for his more than one year of very efficient and effective work as TCWG Chair.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Michael Litschi adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

The next meeting of the TCWG will be held on March 24, 2009.